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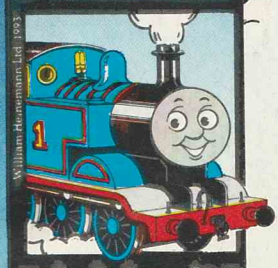

William Heinemann Ltd 1993

7th May '93
No 145 60p

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on the Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.

Peep! Peep! Thomas has been a very helpful engine!

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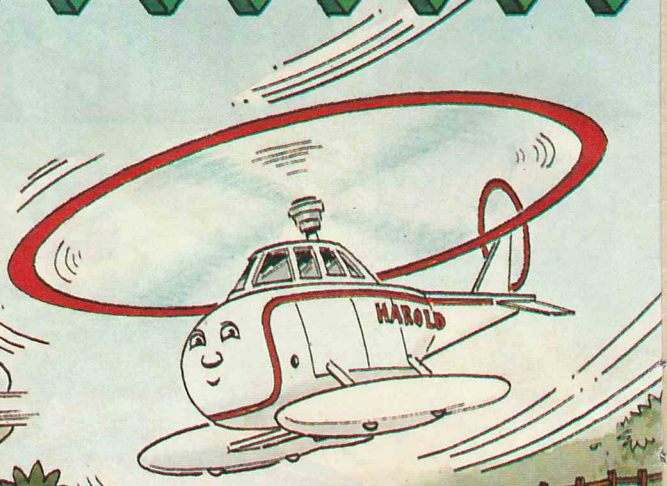
NOTICEBOARD

Peep! Peep! Thomas the Tank Engine is one of the most helpful engines on the Fat Controller's railway. In the story that begins on page 3, Thomas shows that he can also be a "Really Useful Rescue Engine!" Don't miss our second story either, to see if Donald and Douglas will find out who is staying in Trevor's shed? Peep! Peep!



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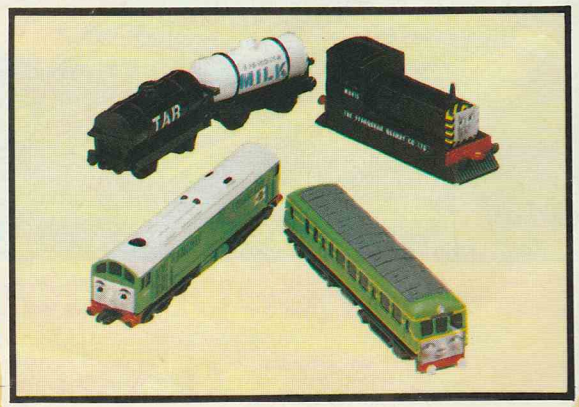
ERTL (UK) Ltd have just announced that their new range of **Diecast** engines, including ***Boco, Daisy*** and the ***Tar & Milk Wagons***, are available in all good toy shops now! *ERTL's* special model of ***Mavis*** will be available at the beginning of May 1993!



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THOMAS TOKEN

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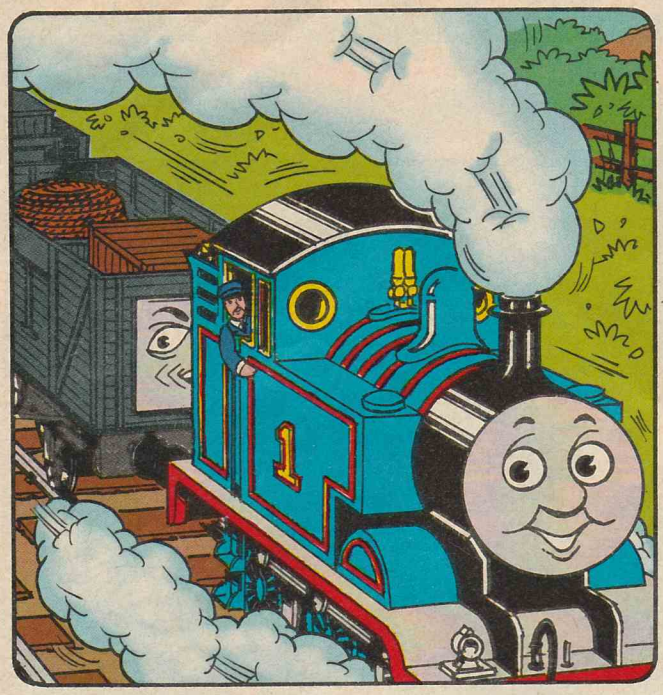
THE RIVER RESCUE!

1. One sunny morning, Thomas was sent to collect some supplies from the Big Harbour. A ship had brought the materials from the mainland. A crane lifted them out of the ship's hold.

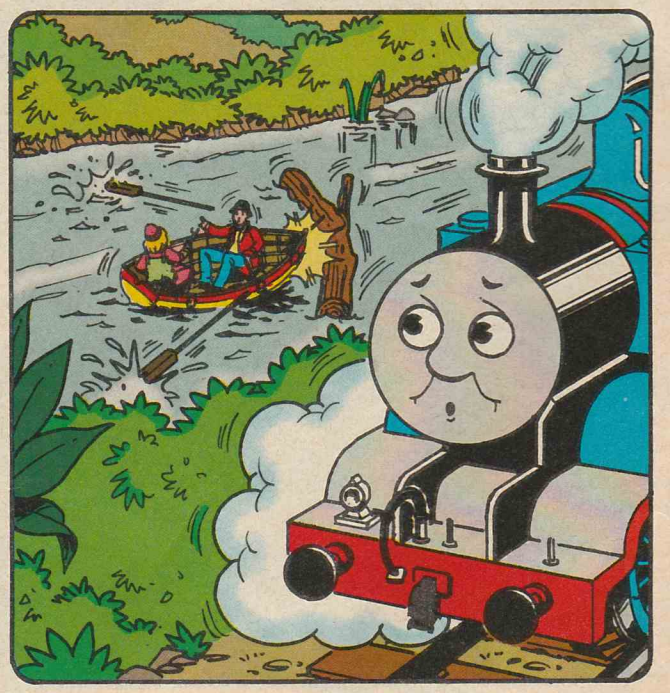
2. Thomas stood patiently at the harbourside as the crane loaded the supplies into his trucks. "You must take everything to the warehouse at Wellsworth," said the Harbour Stationmaster.



3. Thomas's trucks were filled with all sorts of goods, from timber and paint to coils of rope. Then Thomas steamed out of the harbour yard and set off busily on his branch line.

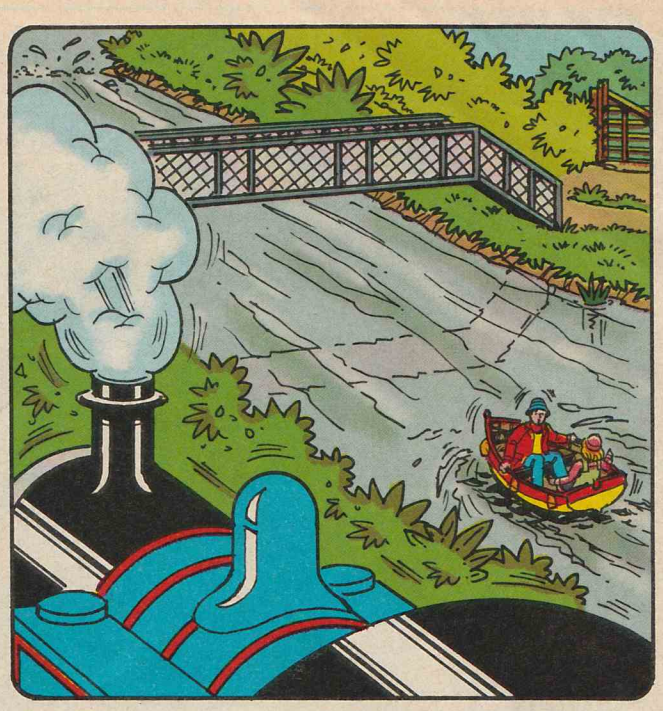
4. Soon he puffed along beside the river. Thomas noticed a man and woman in a small boat. The man was holding two long wooden poles. As he dipped the ends in the water, he pulled on the poles.

5. Thomas was puzzled. He asked his driver about the strange poles. "They are oars," said the driver. "The man is rowing with them to steer the boat and make it move along the river.

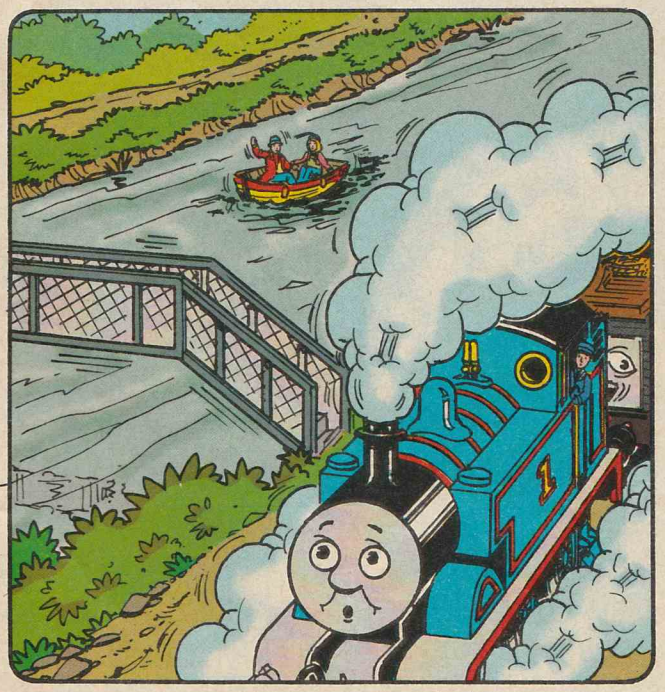


6. A little way ahead, Thomas pulled up at a signal. He saw a tree trunk floating down the river towards the boat. The tree-trunk struck the boat with a 'THUD!'

7. The man was startled and dropped the oars in the water. They floated away. He shouted in alarm. Thomas's driver watched anxiously. "The boat's drifting out of control!" he said.



8. Thomas could see the boat being swept towards rushing water. "That's the weir," cried his driver. "The boat will capsize if it goes over there!" Thomas wondered how to save it.



9. The driver spotted a bridge on the river, between the weir and the rowing boat. When the signal changed, Thomas steamed on, and then stopped by the bridge.

10. The driver climbed down from his cab and hurried to a truck. He fetched a long rope from among the supplies. The driver tied one end of the rope on to a buffer at the front of Thomas.

11. Meanwhile, the couple in the boat yelled for help as the current carried them closer to the dangerous weir. Thomas's driver uncoiled the rope and ran on to the bridge with it. When the boat was underneath, he dropped the other end of the rope to the man below. "Tie the rope to your boat!" called the driver. The man and woman quickly did as they were told.

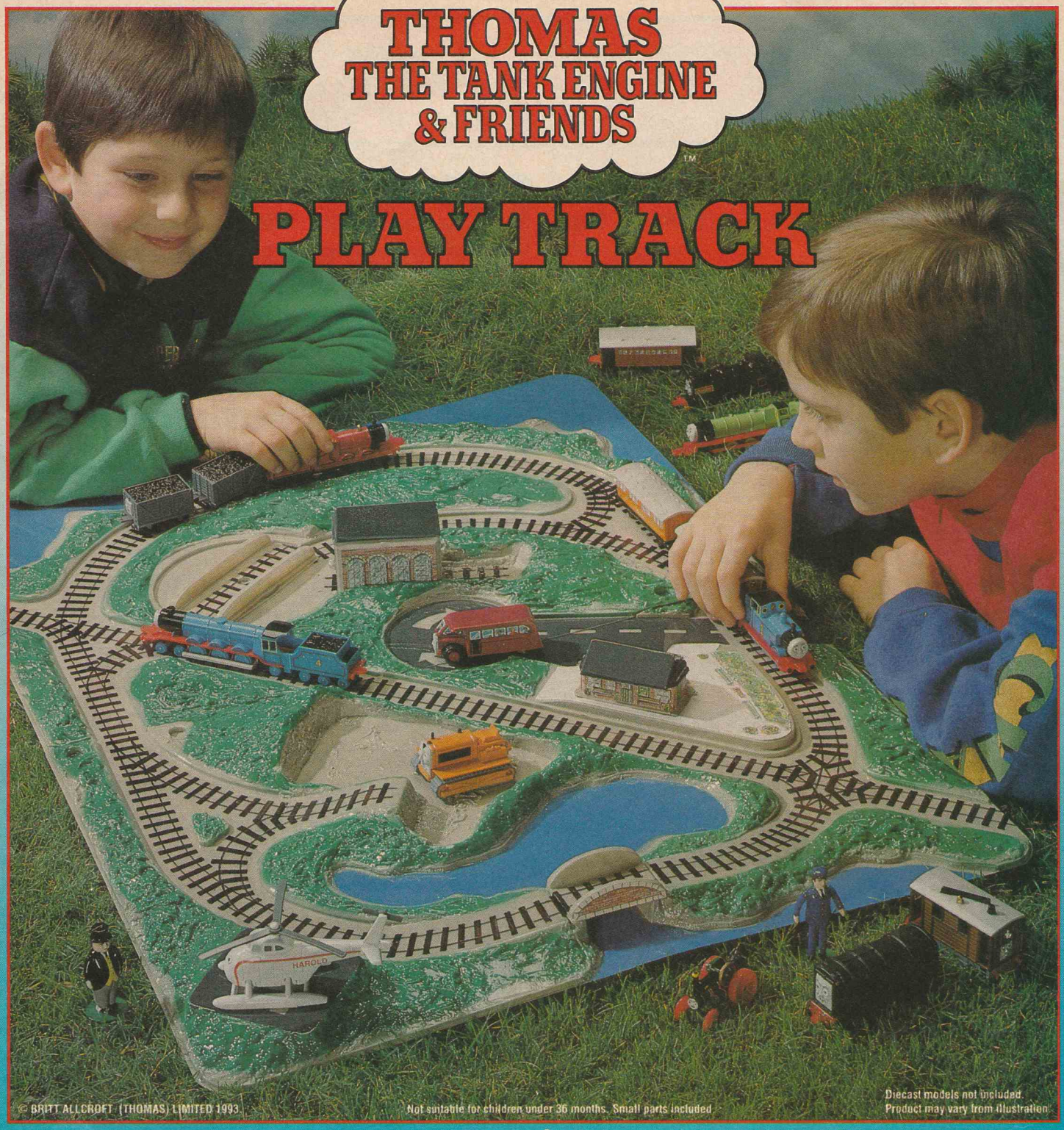
12. Thomas saw the boat drifting nearer and nearer to the weir. As the rope was fully stretched, it made the boat stop just in time. Thomas was relieved! His driver returned and Thomas slowly backed up. He pulled the boat towards the safety of the riverbank. The couple got out and thanked Thomas and his driver. "I'm a Really Useful Rescue Engine!" said Thomas proudly.

THE END!

In our next issue: Standing still!

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS™

PLAY TRACK



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THE NEW HAT!

One windy morning, the Fat Controller arrived for work wearing a brand-new top hat. The engines and railway staff thought it looked really splendid.

"My old hat was getting worn," he told the Stationmaster. "I must look very smart because I am expecting an important visitor."

The Fat Controller explained that the visitor owned a large factory and wanted to hire a passenger train for his staff outing.

"He is coming to choose an engine for this special task," said the Fat Controller. The wind was blowing very hard. As he walked towards his office, a strong gust blew the new hat off his head and right across the yard. The Fat Controller and Stationmaster chased after the hat but could not catch it. It blew right past Percy, who was waiting to shunt trucks.

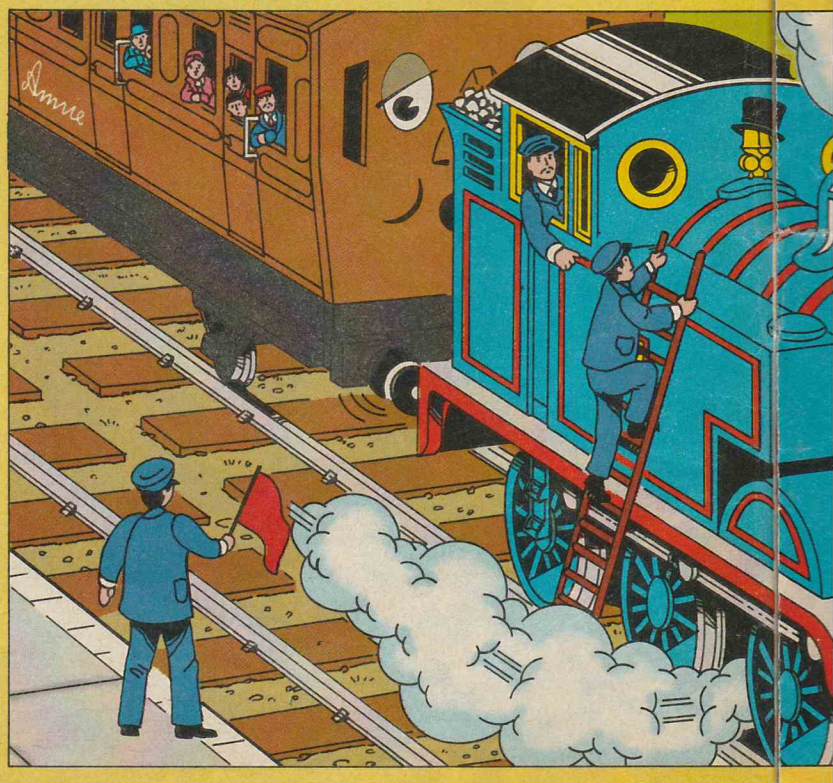
"Hurry! Save my hat!" shouted the Fat Controller. Percy's driver and fireman quickly climbed down on to the track and ran after the hat. They were too late. It blew this way and that, dancing in the sky like a kite. Soon most of the railway staff had joined in the chase.

Whenever the hat landed, the wind carried it into the air again before anyone could pick it up. The men searched everywhere for the hat.

Thomas was returning from his branch line with his faithful carriages, Annie and Clarabel. As he rolled into the Main Station, the top hat dropped on to Thomas's whistle.

"Gracious!" he huffed. "It must belong to the Fat Controller. What will he say when he sees me wearing his hat!"

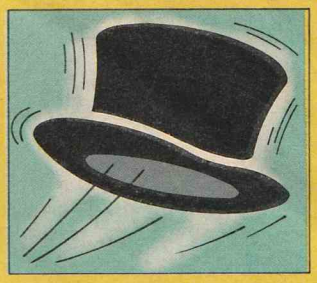
Thomas tried to blow his whistle to free the hat, but it was stuck tight. Then the factory owner arrived for his meeting with the Fat Controller. The visitor



parked his car and walked to the Fat Controller's office. When he saw it was empty, he was puzzled. The man had not met the Fat Controller before and wondered how to find him. He asked an engineer who was oiling Henry near the Works. The engineer did not know the Fat Controller had lost his hat.

"He is easy to spot, sir," he told the visitor. "The Fat Controller always wears a top hat!"
The visitor went to look for him on the platform. Suddenly, he noticed Thomas wearing the top hat. The man was very surprised indeed.

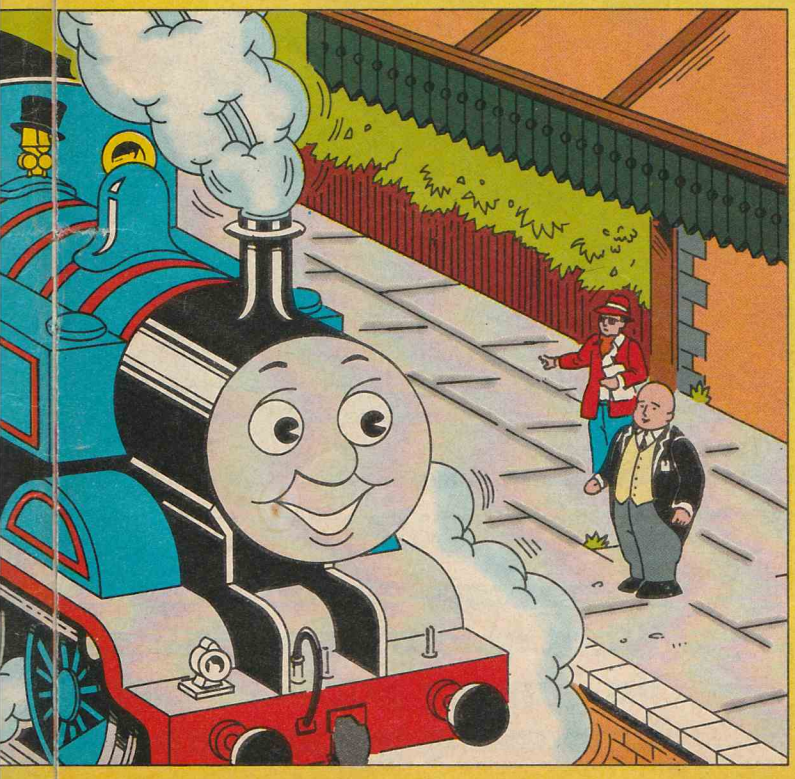
"Upon my word!" he gasped. "Surely, the Fat Controller isn't an engine!" Just then, the Fat Controller and other staff hurried closer. They were amazed to see the hat on Thomas too. The Fat Controller introduced himself to the visitor and apologised for not being in his office. Then he explained what had happened. The factory owner did not mind at all.



hat

"Thomas is the perfect engine to take my staff and their families on a steam-tour around the Island of Sodor!" he said.
Thomas was pleased but he wondered why he had been chosen.

"My factory makes games and joke-toys for children," the visitor told the Fat Controller. "I enjoy a good joke. What could be funnier than an engine with a hat on?"



After the visitor had left, Thomas's driver used some stepladders to reach the top hat. He handed it to the Fat Controller.

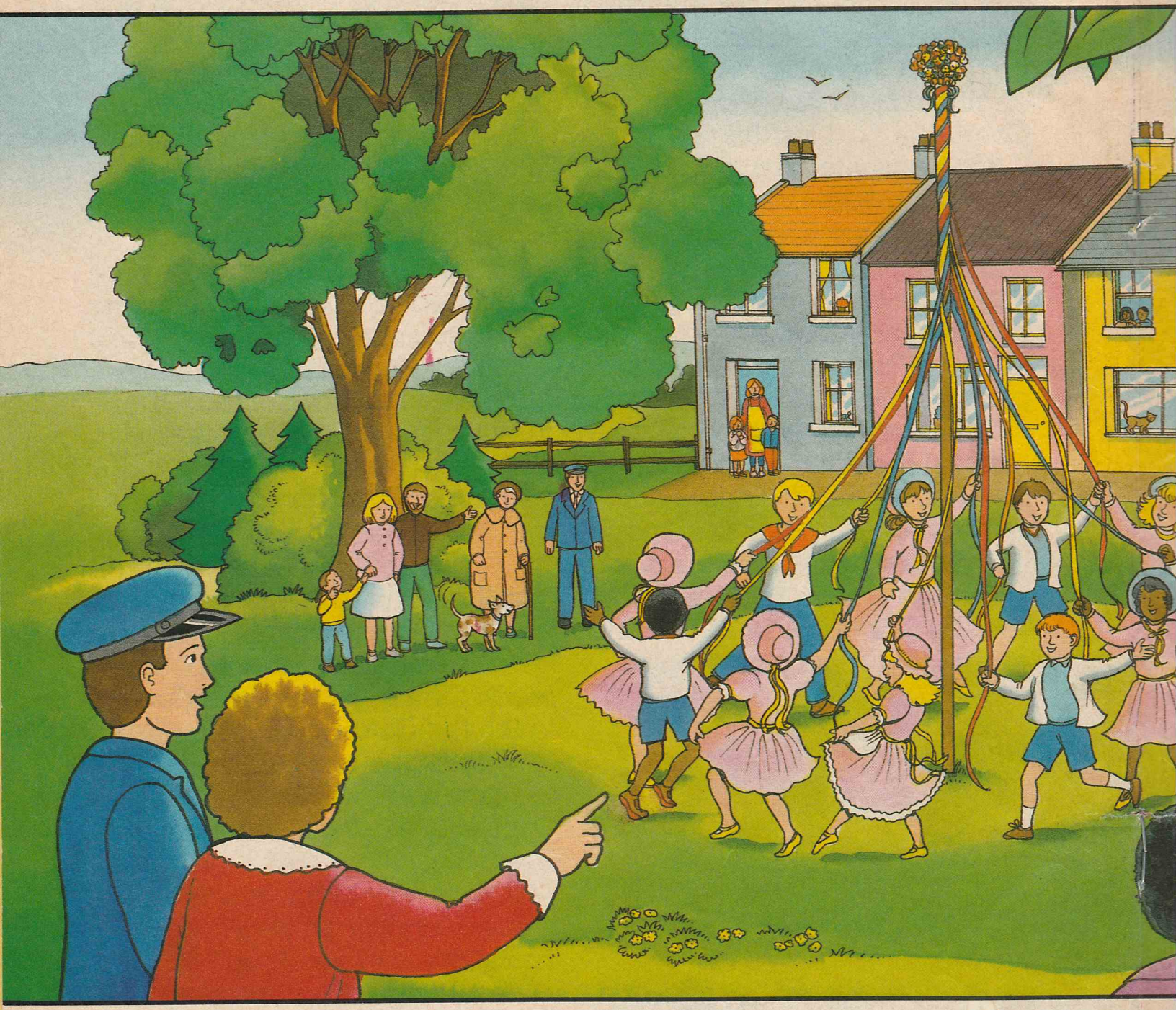
"With a brush, my hat will be as good as new!" said the Fat Controller. He then spoke to Thomas:

"It was very lucky indeed that my hat landed on you, Thomas!"

"Yes, sir," grinned Thomas, "but I'm glad I'm not really in charge of the railway. I am very happy being an engine!"

THE END!

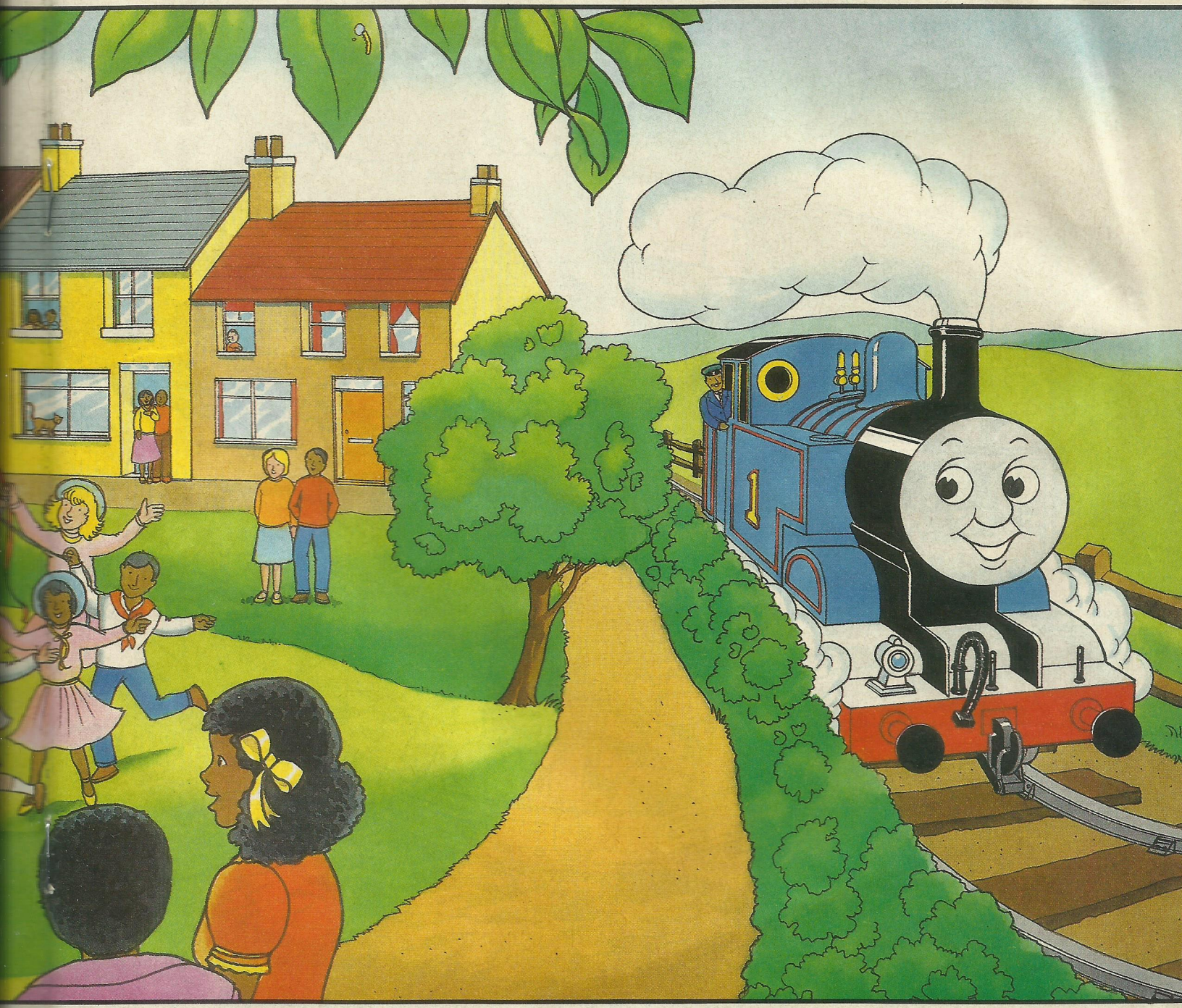
Past the m



Which engine can you see?
What colour is he?
Look at what Thomas can see?
Point to the maypole!

How many children are danc
What colours are the maypol
How many houses can you c
How many guards are watch

maypole!



dancing round the maypole?
ypole ribbons?
ou count?
atching the country dancers?

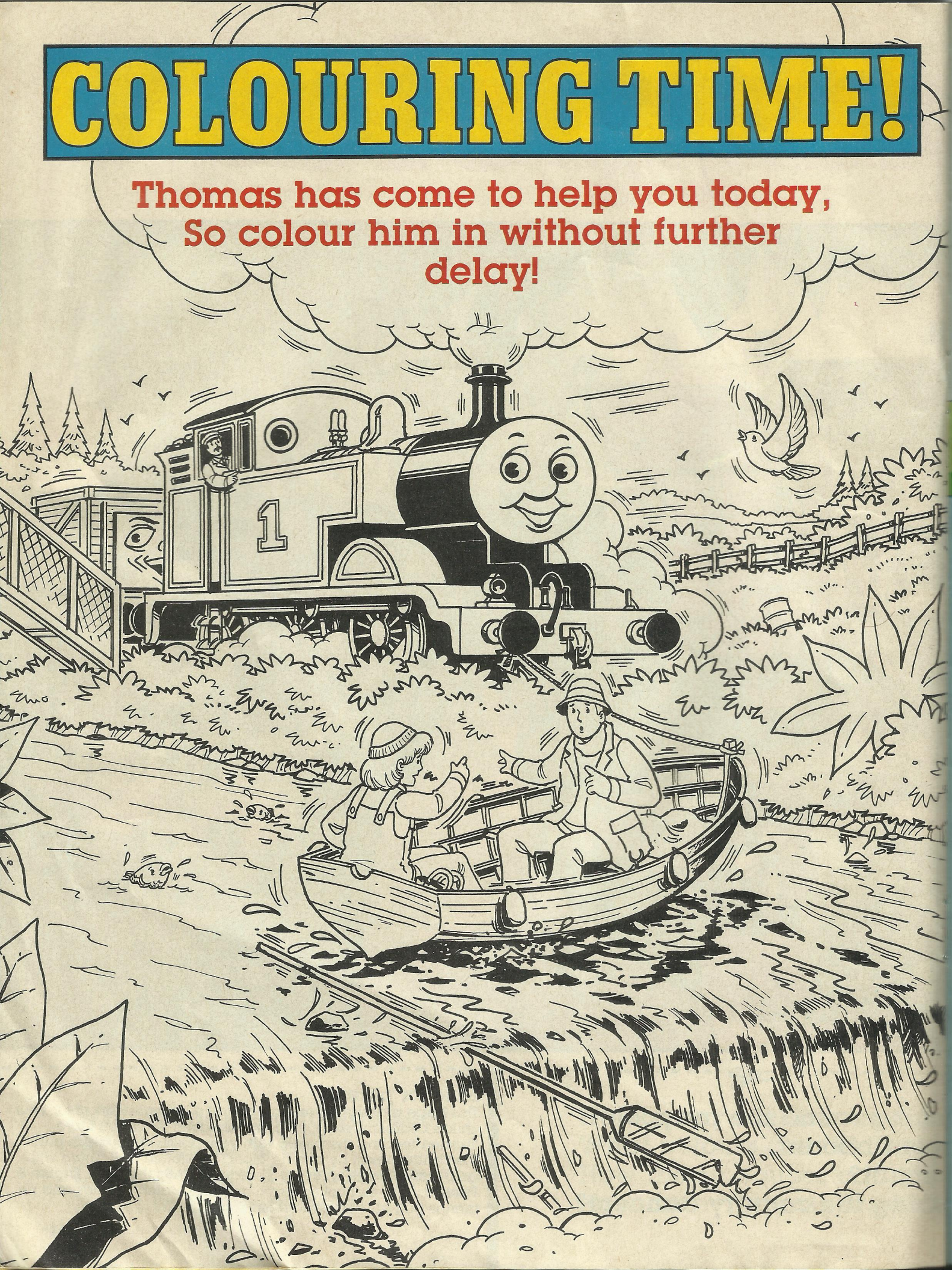
Note for parents

This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the comic with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a **'mural page'** in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends**. Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room!

In our next issue: Spring blossom!

COLOURING TIME!

**Thomas has come to help you today,
So colour him in without further
delay!**



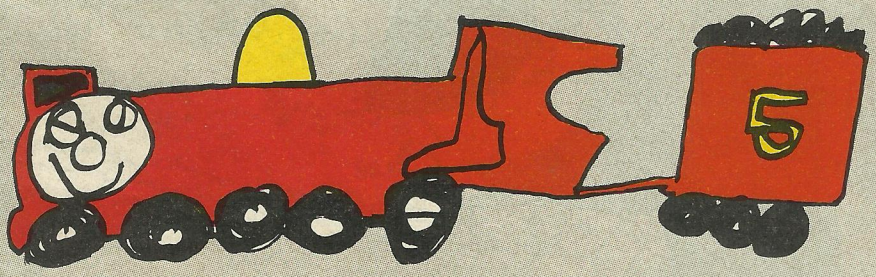
JOIN THE DOTS!

Will the Fat Controller get wet feet?
Join the dots and try to be neat!

THE FAT CONTROLLER'S PICTURES PAGE!

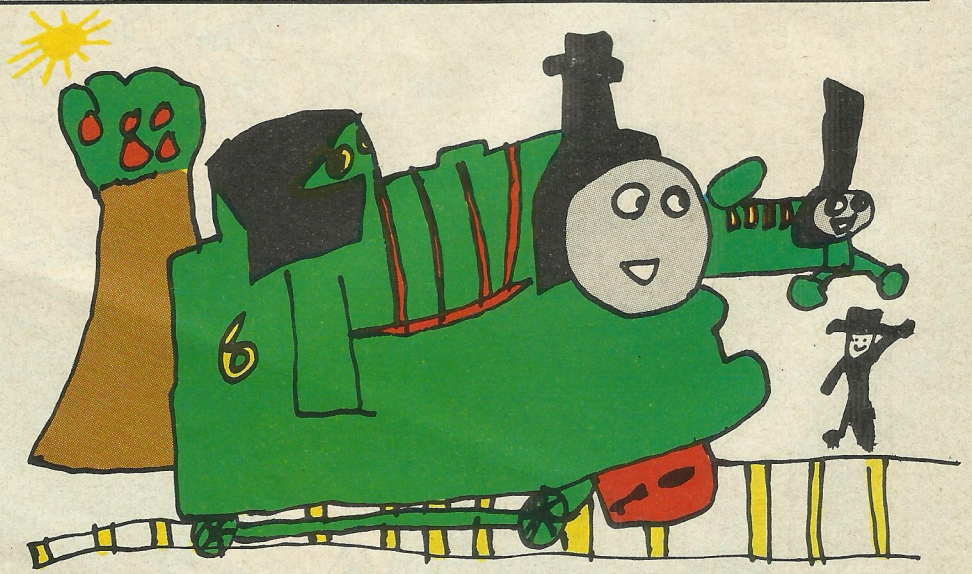
Look at these colourful drawings of some of your favourite engines!

Thomas Grainger, aged 6, has chosen some very bright colours to paint this picture of ***Thomas*** puffing past a railway cottage. Look at all the splendid things Thomas can see!



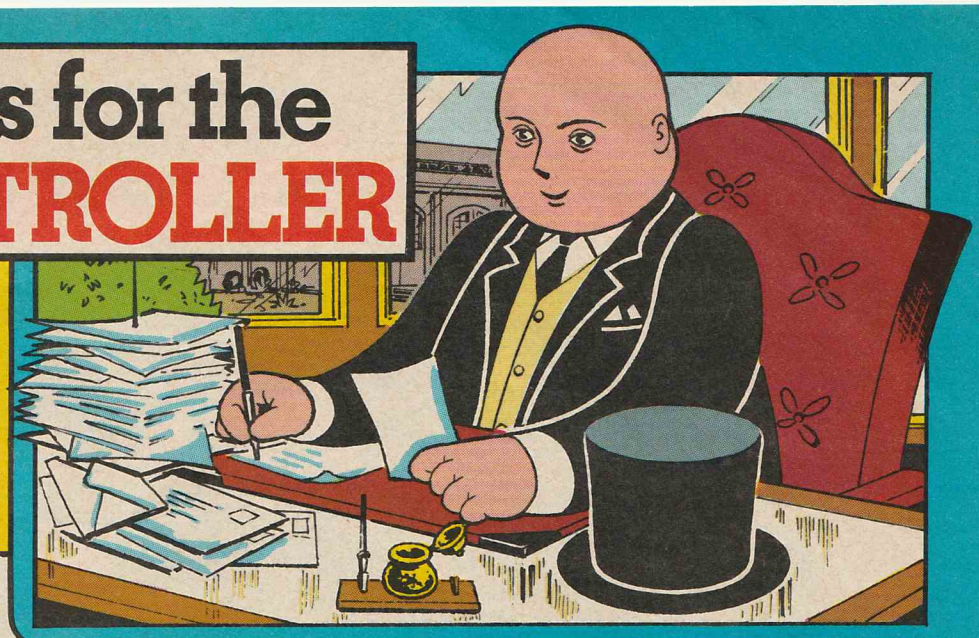
James is a fine red engine who works very hard. He has been drawn and sent to us by **Toby Preece**, aged 3!

Here are ***Percy the Saddletank Engine*** and ***Trevor the Traction Engine*** in the Vicarage Orchard. Can you also see the ***Vicar***? **Helen Jane Campbell** from Dunblane, Scotland, has sent in this painting for us to see!



Thank you all for sending in your pictures! We are sorry that we can only print a few. If you would like to draw a picture and have a chance of seeing it printed in a future issue, please send it to: *The Fat Controller's Pictures Page, Marvel Comics, 13-15 Arundel St, London WC2 3DX.*

Your letters for the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas or his friends? If so, then write to me at the address shown below! I would be so very pleased to hear from you!

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
My Grandad works for a railway as a signalman. Sometimes, engines pass his signalbox that are just like Thomas and his friends. He says that he sees lots of troublesome trucks going past all day long.

Love from **Ben Thatcher**, aged 3.

My! Your Grandad must be a very well organised worker to be able to operate the signalbox, especially if there are so many troublesome trucks to look out for!

The sender of any letter that is printed as our **STAR LETTER** will win some splendid **Thomas Pre-school** toys courtesy of *ERTL (UK) Ltd.*

FAVOURITE STORIES!

Dear Fat Controller,
I really enjoyed the story called **"Thomas and the Church Bells!"** especially when Thomas was given the job of collecting the bells!

Love from **Scott Rix**, aged 4.

Yes! I knew that Thomas, Annie and Clarabel always used to enjoy listening to the church bells, especially when they worked on Thomas's branch line. I thought it would please Thomas to give him the task of replacing the old bells!

THOMAS'S FRIENDS!

Dear Fat Controller,
In my nursery, my best friends are called Jamie, Michelle and Scott. Can you tell me who Thomas's best friends are?

Love from **Martin Chatwood**, aged 4.

Thomas is one of the friendliest engines on my railway and he is kind and helpful to all his engine friends!

BIRTHDAY'S!

David Eborall, Duncan Bonnick, Matthew Woodcock, Rhianwen Haynes, Matthew Keith, Matthew Tanner, Ian Martin Sherman, Gareth Woods, Andrew Woods, Scott Daley, Neil Carter, Graham Christopher, Terry Willmer, Alice Wilders, James and Oliver Simpson, and special greetings to Colin McLachlan.

If you would like a birthday mention printed in one of our future issues, please send details on a postcard at least **nine weeks** in advance!

Yours

Sir Topham Hatt

The Fat Controller!

Send your letters to:

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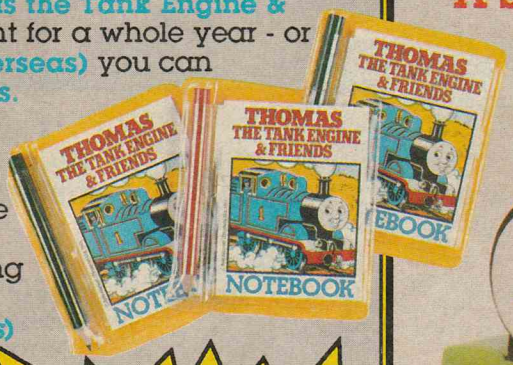

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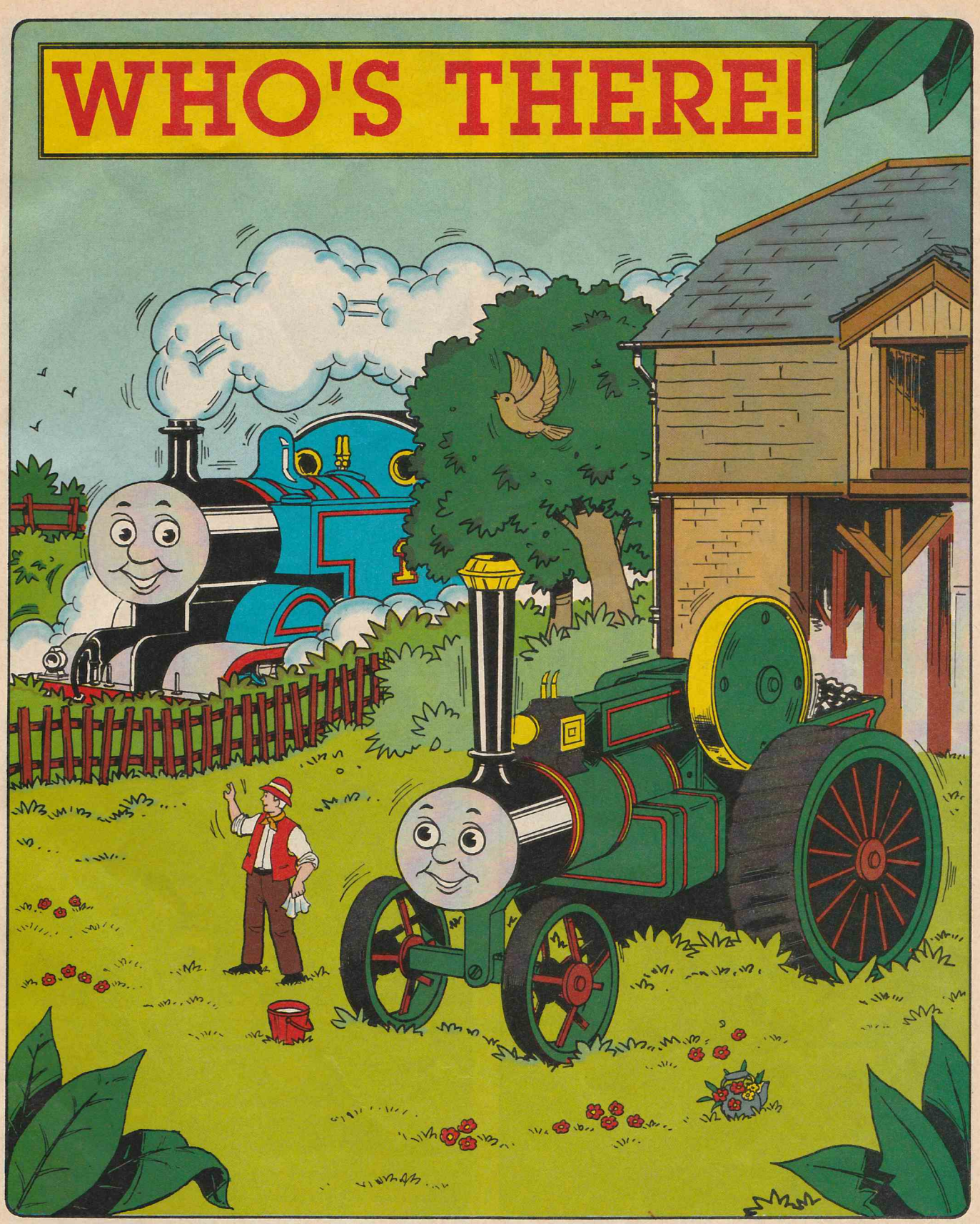
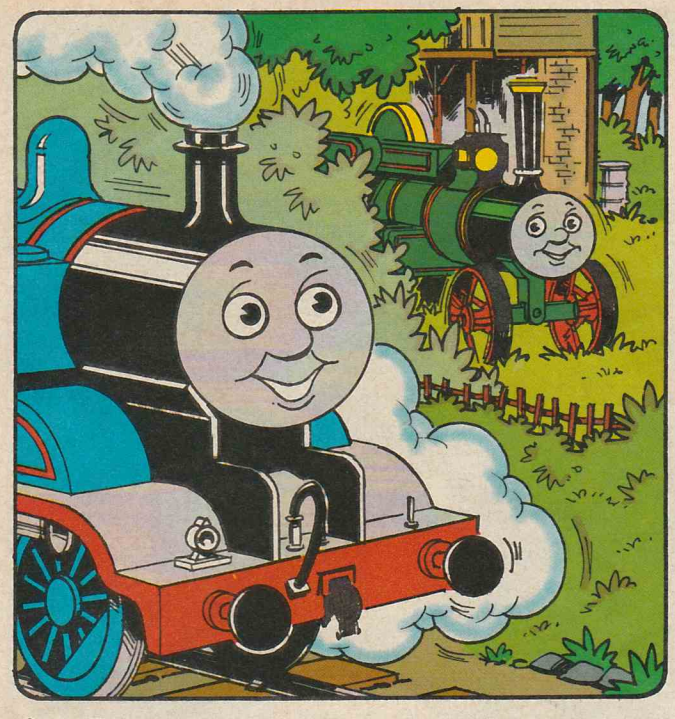
WHO'S THERE!



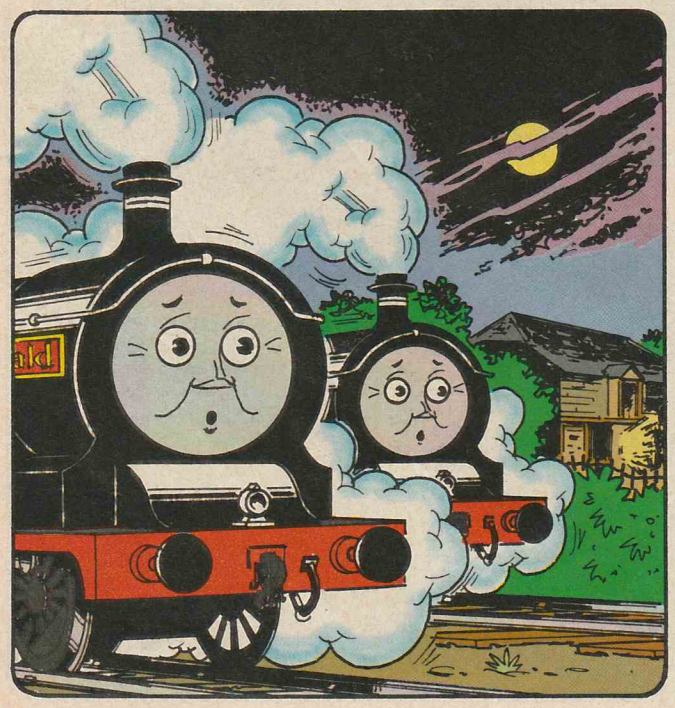
1. One Friday, as Thomas puffed past the vicarage orchard, he saw Trevor the Traction Engine by his shed. His driver, Jem Cole, was polishing him. Trevor looked very smart indeed.

2. "I have some exciting news, Thomas!" called Trevor. "I'm going away for the weekend!" Trevor was to give children rides at a fête on the far side of the Island of Sodor.

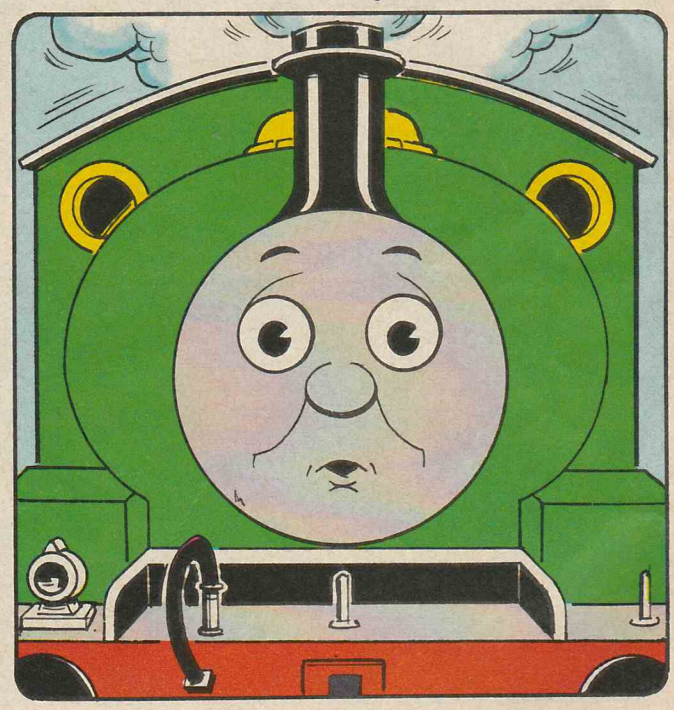


3. Thomas was pleased that Trevor would be going on an exciting trip. "You'll meet lots of people!" said Thomas, as he steamed away. Later he told the other engines about Trevor's news.

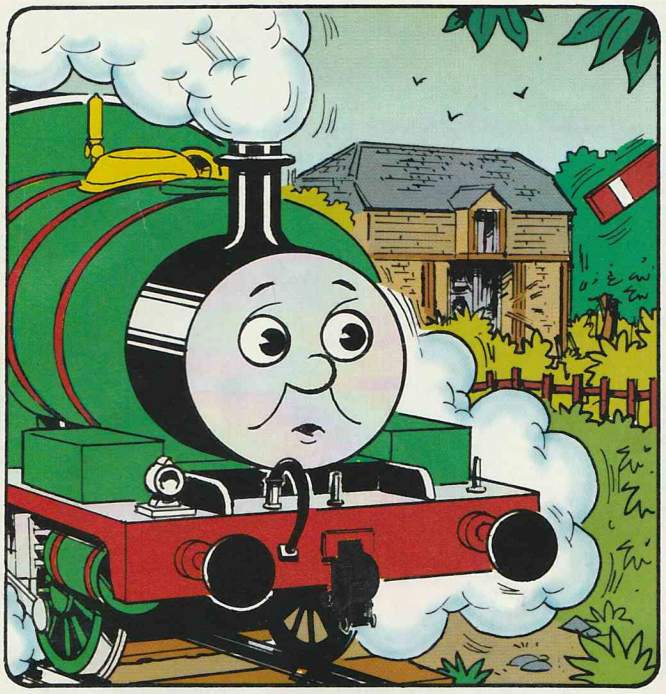
4. That evening, Donald and Douglas, the Scottish twins worked late. It was dark as they passed Trevor's shed. "Och, we won't wake Trevor!" said Donald. "He's not in his shed tonight."



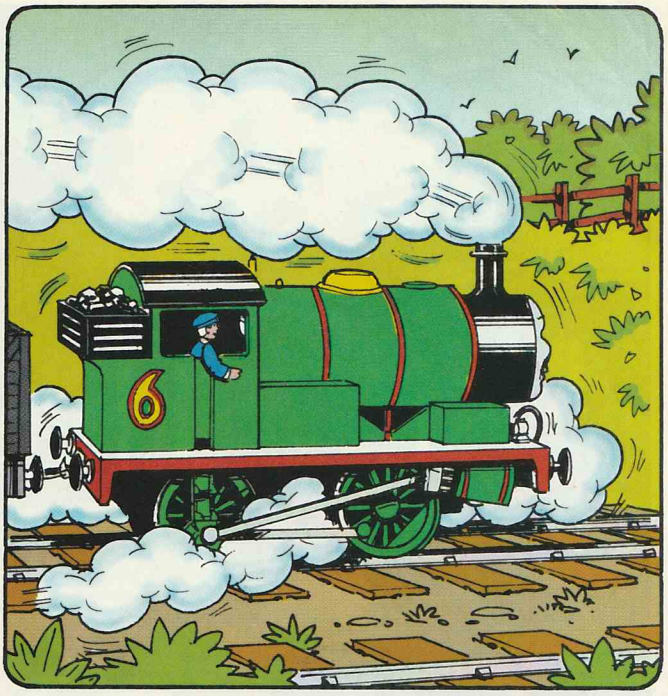
5. Suddenly, Douglas saw a light glowing from inside Trevor's shed. "Trevor must still be there, after all!" he said. "Unless Trevor's shed is haunted!" whispered Donald.



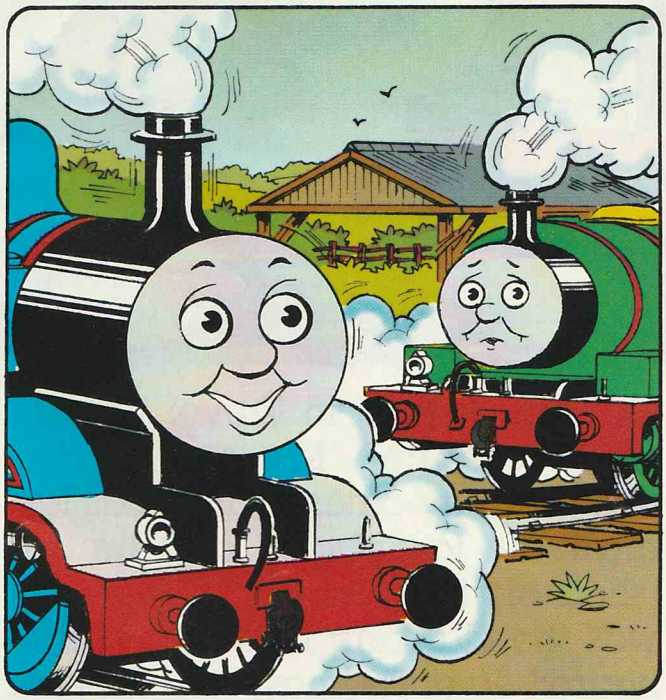
6. Next morning, the twins told Percy about the mysterious light. "It can't have been Trevor in the shed," said Percy. "Edward saw him chugging off on his way to the fête."



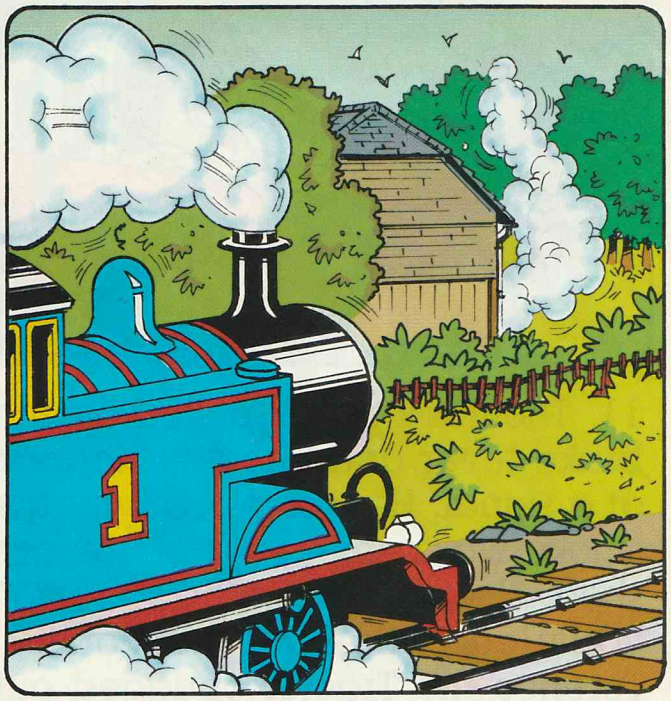
7. Percy set off to collect some trucks. As he waited by the orchard for a signal to show the line was clear, Percy heard a strange clanking noise coming from Trevor's shed.



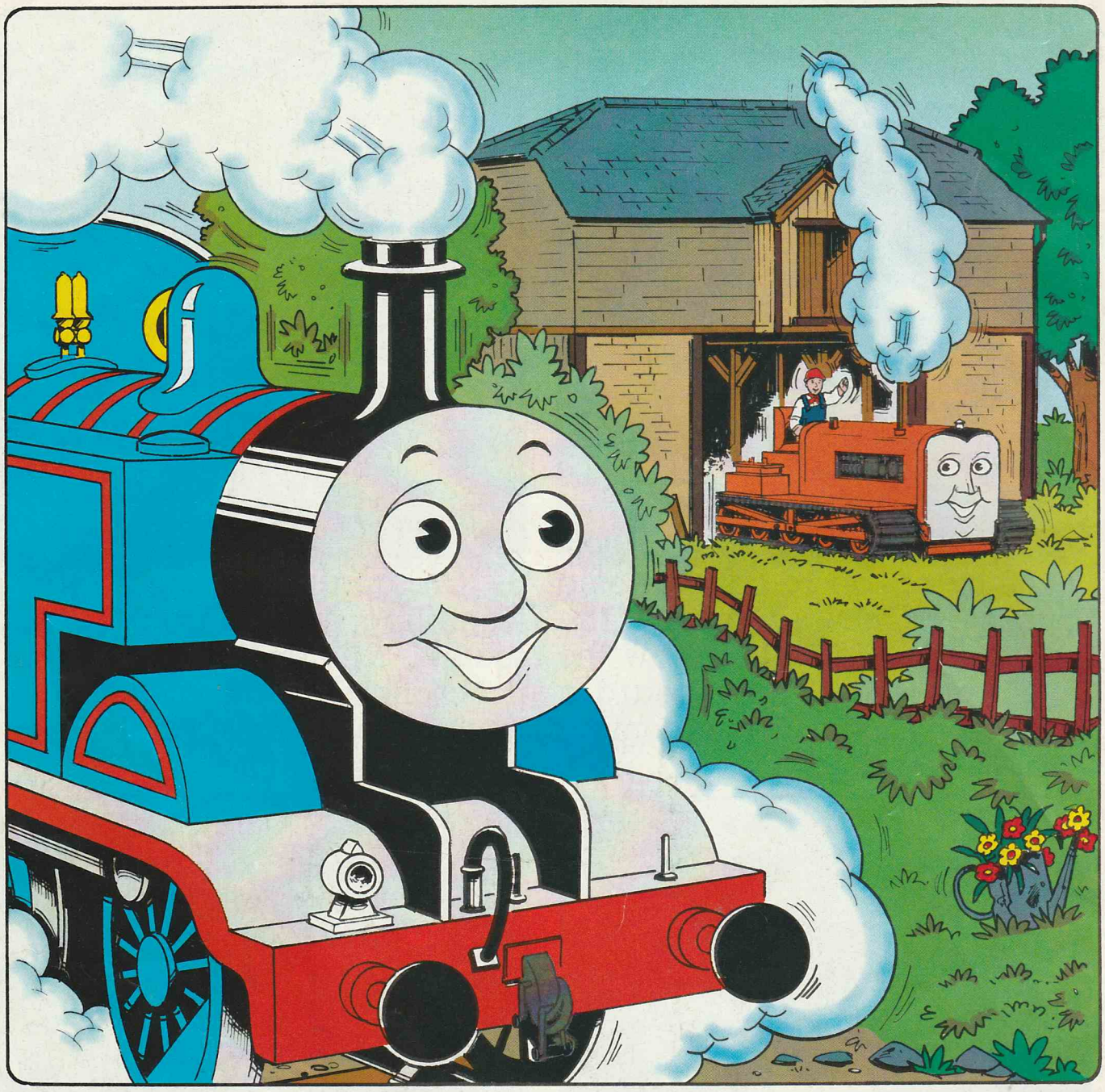
8. "Oh, deary me!" said Percy, trembling on the track. "That sound is s...scary!" When the signal changed, he raced eagerly on his way. Percy arrived at the Main Station, puffing hard.



9. Thomas saw Percy and asked what was wrong. When Thomas heard about the strange sounds, he laughed. "Bah! I don't believe Trevor's shed is haunted!" he said.



10. Thomas set off with a goods train. As he neared the orchard, he saw wisps of smoke drifting out of Trevor's shed. Thomas was puzzled. "That smoke can't be from Trevor's funnel!" he said.



11. Thomas's driver pulled on the brake lever and Thomas stopped at a signal. He wondered why the smoke was coming out of Trevor's shed. "Peep! Peep! Who's there?" whistled Thomas nervously. Terence the Tractor chugged out of his shed, puffing smoke from his exhaust pipe. "It's only me!" he called. The vicar had asked Terence to come and clear away dead trees in the orchard.

12. "I'm staying in Trevor's shed," said Terence. "My driver was mending my caterpillar treads last night by lamplight, and he finished off this morning." "So, that was the clanking noise that Percy heard!" said Thomas. "He thought you were a ghost!" "Imagine that!" chuckled Terence. "Have you ever heard of a ghost tractor with caterpillar treads!"

THE END!

In our next issue: James and Terence!